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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method comprising:

setting a flag for a processor via a first instruction, the first instruction being either a direct update instruction or an indirect update instruction;

if the setting of the flag is by a direct update instruction, executing a succeeding second instruction that reads the flag prior to completion of the first instruction; and

if the setting of the flag is by an indirect update instruction, delaying the second instruction until after completion of the first instruction.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein setting the flag by a direct update instruction comprises storing a value for the flag in a renamer.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein setting the flag by an indirect update instruction comprises storing a value in a buffer and storing the value in the renamer upon retirement of the indirect update instruction.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising checking the value of a register scoreboard prior to accessing the flag.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein executing an indirect update instruction comprises setting the register scoreboard prior to storing the value in the renamer and clearing the register scoreboard after storing the value in the renamer.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the value for the flag in shadow logic.

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